

Michelle E. Aurzada

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LinkedIn • Denver, Colorado

Attorney

Qualified and highly ethical professional with experience as a practicing attorney in a corporate law firm, with an emphasis in natural resources and the energy sector. An effective legal and business partner with over a decade of experience and industry understanding, seeking to add value by creatively bridging the legal and business gap while maintaining the highest level of reputable and ethical standards.

Qualifications Summary

- Demonstrated experience in a corporate practice focused on energy with an emphasis on negotiations, commercial contracts, real property, trusts and estate law, mineral law, oil and gas law; complex due diligence and title examinations.
- Proficient in drafting and reviewing real estate and title curative documents, including reviewing purchase and sale agreements, joint operating agreements, master service agreements, general commercial contract development and negotiation.
- Strong organizational, time management, and oral and written communication skills; well-developed aptitude to manage multiple projects with an excellent ability to set priorities and manage expectations on deliverables and deadlines.

Career Experience

Tyson, Gurney & Hovey, LLC, Denver, Colorado, Midland, Texas
Attorney

1/2020 – Present

Steer efforts in developing and managing the multistate practice of energy law focused on real property, contract drafting and review, trusts and estates, probate, real estate acquisitions and divestitures while building a team of attorneys. Provide consultative support in drafting and reviewing corporate transactions, including purchase and sale agreements, master service agreements, joint operating agreements, real property surface use agreements, escrow, non-disclosure agreements, property closing documents and assignments. Orchestrate extensive support to General Counsel in managing litigation, general contract review and acquisitions and divestitures.

- Drove client portfolio growth by 50% by revamping management processes and marketing for strategic growth.
- Facilitated 500 million acquisition in the Permian Basin while leading a team of attorneys for project completion.
- Successfully examined and managed lease provisions, amendments, ratifications, options, commitments, land descriptions, surveys and termination clauses.

Lear & Lear LLP, Denver, Colorado, Midland, Texas
Attorney

12/2013 – 1/2020

Led and controlled multi-million dollar projects across TX, NM, WY, CO, and ND, including fee, state and federal lands. Formulated legal documents, such as contracts, dispositions, and pleadings, including purchase and sale agreements, master service agreements, joint operating agreements, surface use agreements, letter of intent, escrow, non-disclosure agreements accurately and in a timely manner.

- Spearheaded a team of seven attorneys across multi-state projects and developed over \$1.5M in new business.
- Oversaw research and drafted substantive documents addressing project and schedule management, legislative and regulatory measures and risk assessment.

Aurzada Law, PLLC, Fort Worth, Texas
Managing Member

6/2012 – 11/2013

Provided strategic oversight in review, negotiate and approve legal contracts for the corporation, including day to day oil and gas and general corporate and commercial contracts focusing on litigation. Demonstrated expertise in lay, expert and corporate representative depositions, liability analysis, and initial pleadings. Made substantial contributions to stand up title opinions, title opinions, title curative, and mineral transfers as well as bankruptcy proceedings and asset transfers from Trustees to purchasers.

- Drafted opinions and title searches for large oil and gas companies as well as settled a litigation case for damages under a Master Service Agreement.
- Provided legal and strategic advice on the discovery, fact analysis, motion practice, hearings and trial preparation.

Headed up efforts in managing over 300 cases at one time with a primary focus on business litigation and bankruptcy representation of creditors. Held upfront and bottom-line accountability for cases filed in Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Wyoming and Colorado, including trial preparation, managing expert witnesses, trial depositions, federal hearings and case review. Drove company growth by networking with mortgage lenders, auto financing companies and small businesses.

- Resolved and managed 150 creditor cases in the federal bankruptcy court. Handled foreclosures throughout the United States, collected on bundled mortgages for the creditor.
- Provided strategic and legal advice for opening and maintaining the Dallas branch office for Memphis based firm.

Additional Experience

Contract Attorney, Bryan, Cave LLP, Dallas, Texas

Teacher, Carrollton-Farmer's Branch Independent School District, Carrollton, Texas

Police Officer, Casper Police Department, Casper, Wyoming

Chairman Legislative Regulatory Affairs, American Association of Professional Landmen, Fort Worth, Texas

Pro-Bono Project, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas

Education

Juris Doctor

Texas A&M School of Law, Fort Worth, Texas

P.O.S.T.

Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy, Douglas, Wyoming

Bachelor of Arts

University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming

Licenses & Certifications

Certified Professional Landman, 2021

Admissions

United States Supreme Court

Supreme Court of Texas

Supreme Court of Colorado – Application Pending

United States District Court Northern District of Texas

United States District Court Southern District of Texas

United States District Court Eastern District of Texas

United States District Court Western District of Texas

United States Bankruptcy Court Western District of Texas

United States Bankruptcy Court Southern District of Texas

United States Bankruptcy Court Northern District of Texas

United States Bankruptcy Court Eastern District of Texas

Affiliations

Texas Bar Association Energy and Natural Resources, State Bar of Texas, 2009 – Present

Awards

Presidential Meritorious Award, AAPL, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 2019

Nomination for Blankenship Family Horizon Award, 2021

Nomination for Top Women in Energy, Denver Business Journal, 2015